
Training and News for the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service

Director of Emergency Management Named

Barb Graff, Former Manager of Bellevue's Emergency Preparedness Division, is New Seattle Emergency Management Director

By Mark Sheppard, N7LYE

Recently, Mark Sheppard, N7LYE, conducted an interview for QRV? with Barb Graff, Seattle's newly named Director of Emergency Management. Read on for a great introduction of our new Director. -ed.

Q R V ? : Barb, welcome to the City of Seattle and your new job as Director of Emergency Management. You have been the Manager of Emergency Preparedness for the City of Bellevue for several years; please tell us about your experience there and bit about your background so we can begin to know you.



Photo by Mark Sheppard

Emergency Management Director Barb Graff

Barb: I had the pleasure of working for the last 21 years for the City of Bellevue; the first seven of which were in the City Manager's Office where our favorite joke was that none of us specialized in anything - but we did need to know about 9 ounces worth of everything going on in the City. For the last 14 years, I managed the Emergency Preparedness Division for the City tending to all aspects of preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery for any kind of hazard. Our program was selected as a national pilot city for emergency man-

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QRV?



QRV? = "Are you prepared?"

QRV? is the Newsletter of the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service, City of Seattle, Emergency Management

Seattle ACS Nets

General net: meets weekly on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.—Bill Ehler K7NZV Net Manager
 Training/Technical net: meets weekly on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.—George Boswell K7YHB Net Manager
 146.96 MHz PSRG repeater/-600 KHz offset/103.5 tone

Seattle ACS Frequency Plan

Program your radios so they always transmit the indicated tone. We rely on this for automatic access to supporting systems.

Check-in & Event Coordination Frequency

146.96 MHz repeater/-600 KHz offset/103.5 tone

*In case of repeater failure use 146.96 simplex with 103.5 tone. You will be assigned an operating frequency for passing traffic.
 We want to keep the check-in and coordination frequency as clear as possible.*

Operating frequencies

These frequencies are to be used for passing message traffic between field posts and the Seattle EOC.

UHF repeaters: Primary System

443.650 MHz ACS-North repeater. Tone 141.3 Hz (Xmt and Rcv) Primary area served: Northeast and Northwest zones
443.000 MHz ACS-Central repeater. Tone 141.3 Hz (Xmt and Rcv) Primary area served: Central East and Central West zones
441.800 MHz ACS-South repeater. Tone 141.3 Hz (Xmt and Rcv) Primary area served: Southeast and Southwest zones

VHF Simplex: Backup System

*ACS operates a north and south remote base that receives and transmits on our two designated simplex frequencies.
 Tones are mandatory.*

146.56 MHz ACS-VHF North. Simplex. Tone 103.5 Hz (Xmt and Rcv)

Planned service area: Northwest, Northeast, and Central-East zones

147.58 MHz ACS-VHF South. Simplex. Tone 103.5 Hz (Xmt and Rcv)

Planned service area: Southwest, Southeast, and Central-West zones

Six Meter Repeater – used for special operations – 53.250 MHz tone 100 Hz.

State & County Nets

Washington State Emergency meets Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. 3.985 MHz
 King County ARES meets Sundays at 8:00 p.m. 146.82 MHz (tone 103.5)

Please direct inquiries about the Auxiliary Communication Service to:

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Please direct letters, articles, and inquiries about **QRV?** to the editor:

Peter Smith N7BYP (206) 284-2098, n7byp@arrl.net

ACS Website: www.cityofseattle.org/eoc/acs

From the Editor

Try it—You'll Like it!

As I write this I'm listening to Bob K9PQ read the preliminary material for our Monday evening net. Pretty soon I'll jump up, run over to the radio, grab the mike and check in. As we all know, our Monday evening nets allow opportunities to exchange news, check radios, and keep in practice with net operations.

For many years, Bill Ehler, K7NZV has faithfully and very competently managed our Monday evening net. Every month you've probably heard Bill ask for volunteer net control operators. Some months those weekly slots are filled quickly and easily. Other months find those weekly slots much harder to fill.

If you haven't already tried your hand at net control, I encourage you to give it a try. Why? You never know when you may be called upon to serve as net control in time of need. We all need practice with net control and acting occasionally as net control operator provides just such practice. I also believe that experience as a net control operator tends to make one a better net participant in general.

Perhaps you're a little worried that you won't know what to do, or that you'll make a mistake. Please don't let that stop you. We all make mistakes - that's how we learn! My experience has been that everyone in ACS is unfailingly supportive

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Mark's Message

SDART/ACS Taskforce Creates Common Message Form

By Mark Sheppard, N7LYE

LuAn Johnson, SDART Program Manager and Mark Sheppard, ACS Manager convened a taskforce of SDART and ACS teams members to address a key issue emerging from the After Action Debriefing of the SDART-ACS Field Exercise which occurred in May of this year.

The fact that SDART and ACS were operating off two different message forms was confusing and contributed to delays in sending out messages. The taskforce is made up of SDART volunteers: Sandi Prince, Fran Rice, Janet Sherwood and Jane Slade; and ACS volunteers: Jim Doub, Matt Thomas, George Boswell, Hal Mueller, Alex Berteau, Joel Ware, Al Buscio and Libe Napat (Libe is team coordinator for SDART as well). This group met one evening in July. LuAn led a brainstorming session to identify key issues. This was followed by the group splitting into SDART and ACS work groups to come up with solutions. The SDART team was facilitated by LuAn and the ACS team by one of our new members Jim Doub. The groups came back together and there was truly a meeting of the

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ACS/SDART in May Exercise

By Peter Smith, N7BYP

On May 14, 2005, the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS) and the Seattle Disaster and Response Teams (SDART) held an all-city drill. The event began at 0800 as EOC Team members arrived to start up the amateur radio communications post at the Seattle Emergency Operations Center (EOC). EOC operators included Ned Worcester KB7NFO and Bill Dockstader W7LSK co-leads, assisted by Joel Ware KD7QKK, Eric Quense, KC7VDO, Alex Berteau KG6JPJ, and Mark Sheppard, N7LYE.

This was followed by the deployment of ACS members to seven community centers at 0830. Those community centers included Loyal Heights, Bill Ehler K7NZV and Peter Smith N7BYP co-lead, assisted by John Pringle W7RIY, Hal Mueller KE7BYN, Don Thornton W7THO, and Tom McIntyre KB7KIF; Magnolia, Dave Prince WB0RAZ lead, assisted by Tom Liebert KD7BFA, Milt Furness K7JKH, and Gary Braun KD7JPO; Ravenna Eckstein, George Boswell K7YHB and Don Moore K7DEM co-lead assisted by Stephen Willey KD7GXO, David Mann Jr. KD7ZYM, Jim Doub K6TKU, Robert King K7OFT, Arthur Davis WF7O, Mat Marcus KV2N, Ben Swisher KN7A,

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agement accreditation and were found compliant in 52 out of 54 standards. This is kind of like the industrial version of a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval derived from self-assessment, documentation, then interviews and demonstration for a peer review team from around the nation.

QRV?: What is your vision for the future? What are your goals and expectations for guiding emergency preparedness and response in the City, please talk a bit about the challenges ahead.

Barb: Emergency preparedness is a fabric woven of many threads. Threat assessment, risk reduction, hazard mitigation, communication, skill development, training, equipping, exercising, learning, and continually building awareness and capabilities. As you are already aware, the risks we face have increased in scope and complexity. More people live in hazard prone areas. With each day that passes from the last publicized (or experienced) disaster, apathy towards personal preparedness gains weight. The train bombings in London remind us of the intentional threats we face. More responders are being asked to be the jack of too many trades. Those are some significant challenges. We, the staff in the Office of Emergency Management, recently met to talk about our vision for the future and are committed to using our experience, enthusiasm and focused energy to keep Seattle prepared for all hazards - not just the ones that

disproportionately dominate headlines. We identified specific areas of training, organizing, and creating partnerships that would keep us headed in the direction of a well prepared community, able to meet the challenges of any disaster. I can't think of any better known disaster relief service than amateur radio operators. The first thing you need after the hurricane wipes away the infrastructure or the earthquake makes it crumble, is the ability to communicate. You are our most reliable form of post-disaster auxiliary communication and the practice and dedication you bring to your task prior to events is appreciated and valued.

QRV?: We understand in your previous assignment, you have employed community volunteer teams similar to SDART and Amateur radio teams like ACS - how do you see the role of these groups developing in the future?

Barb: I had the honor of being affiliated with the Eastside Amateur Radio Support group (EARS) for 14 years in Bellevue and have heard tremendous things about ACS through our staff members as well as Mark Sheppard and Ned Worcester. EARS met monthly in Bellevue's EOC, supported by one of the staff members of the Emergency Preparedness Division, and conducted regular drills with neighboring radio clubs and many City Departments including Fire, Police, Parks, Utilities, and Transportation. One evening, the 9-1-1 switch was temporarily compromised to the eastside and EARS members

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and Bob Helling K9PQ; Miller, Matt Thomas KD7PPK lead, assisted by Robert Newhouse KD7AGT; Southwest, Libe Napat KB7WCE lead, assisted by Harold Zoll W7QMW and Al Buscio KD7KXD; Rainier Beach, Chris Osburn KD7DVD lead, assisted by Dennis Garrett KB7KXD; and Hiawatha, Steve Monsey N0FPF lead, assisted by John Middlekauff K7JBXZ, Frank Toles KC7VZN, Carol Toles KD7REP, and Harris Johnson N7SOQ. At 0900 radio operations commenced with the community centers checking in to the EOC on the 146.96 PSRG repeater.

The net continued with community centers moving to various ACS UHF frequencies for the remainder of the drill. Between 0930 and 1130 messages were received from SDART Communications Team members representing twenty-six SDART Teams. Throughout the morning messages were received at the community centers from SDART Communications Team members, translated into the ACS Message Form, then relayed to the EOC via amateur radio transmissions.

ACS Manager Mark Sheppard, N7LYE accompanied by Assistant Police Chief Dan Jacoby visited the community centers throughout the drill.

Packet News

Look for information about current plans for packet networks in a future issue of *QRV?* -ed.

Editor's Note: Please see Mark's Message for information about this report.

Communications Team Report

prepared by the neighborhood ➡ taken to a Community Center ➡ relayed to the city EOC

Reminders:

- Please use ONE FORM to report EACH separate incident. You may need to take multiple forms with you to the Community Center.
- Please report ONLY those things that you and your neighbors have not been able to take care of. Ultimately, we will want to know all that occurred and all you did. But initially, because of limited resources, we need only to know what you need additional help with.

Incident Location Information:

address of incident _____

closest cross street _____

zip code _____

What Happened? / Why Is It Life Threatening?

☐ Injury: _____
briefly describe

☐ Fire (check all that apply):

one house

☐ multiple houses

☐ in street

☐ burning foliage & vegetation

☐ other: _____

☐ Natural Gas (check all that apply):

☐ ruptured in street

☐ uncontrolled leaking in house

☐ other: _____

☐ Other: _____
briefly describe

ACS Reporting Information:

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minds and the new form was born and the messy problems that contributed to the confusion were solved. These folks did a great job and have done a great deal to bring the SDART and ACS groups closer together which will strengthen our working relationships. We look forward to the next exercise to see this form work in the heat of "battle". So the next step is training using the new form.

The Report Form is on page 5 of this issue of QRV?. -ed.

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were deployed to Fire Stations to act as receivers/routers for emergencies as advertised by dispatchers on local radio. I have learned through experience and friendship that there are no harder working or more dedicated disaster service workers than amateur radio operators. I'm told you don't have to learn as much Morse code to get your license these days, but I remain convinced the FCC must put some kind of magic service ethic on your license.

I look forward to meeting you all and hope we get a chance to share a casual meal

together BEFORE it's the chow line at the disaster site.

Again, thank you for all you do for this community. -Barb

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and helpful. The next time you hear Bill ask for volunteers give net control a try. You'll gain a great deal of satisfaction from learning valuable new communication skills and techniques. As the guy in the men's clothing ad says: I guarantee it!

QRV? - Seattle ACS

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